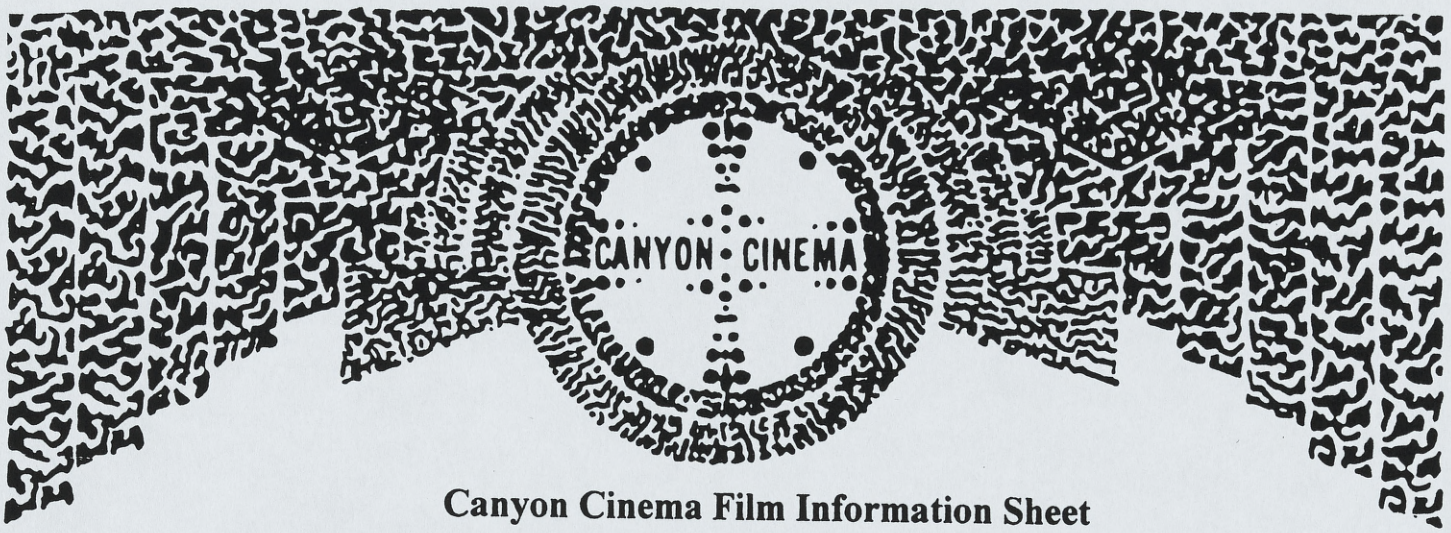
SARA KATHRYN ARLEDGE
Introductory Statement for Catalog #8

Sara Kathryn Arledge (1911-1998) is one of the undeservedly neglected figures in the American experimental cinema. Although her two major works, Introspection and What is a Man?, were completed in 1946 and 1958, respectively, neither was screened with any frequency until the late 1970s. In his book The Exploding Eye, Wheeler Winston Dixon has written, "Along with Maya Deren and Marie Menken, Sara Kathryn Arledge is one of the foremothers of the American experimental cinema, who worked tirelessly to perfect her art during the span of several decades when she was one of the few practitioners of independent cinema."

Introspection was begun in 1941 and was the first abstract dance film made in the United States. Along with Maya Deren's A Study in Choreography for Camera, also made in the mid-'40s, Arledge's film pioneered the genre that came to be known as "cine-dance." What is a Man?, her second film, is a series of vignettes which ponder the "alienation" of modern man and woman. Completed shortly after Arledge's release from Napa State Hospital, where she had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and had undergone numerous electroshock treatments, What is a Man? offers a fascinating glimpse into the filmmaker's psyche.

A prolific painter, Arledge also pioneered the medium of hand painting on glass slide transparencies. These largely abstract works, begun in 1947, involved the making of "glass sandwiches," between which she squeezed colored gelatinous sheets which were heated in ovens. The melted gels were then drawn on with toothpicks, Q-tips, crumpled napkins and toilet paper, Sharpie pens, and so on. Finding great satisfaction with this process, Arledge would eventually make a number of what she called "stable" films (see Tender Images and Interior Garden), in which she transferred the glass transparencies to 16mm film.

Total Words: 295



Canyon Cinema Film Information Sheet

(This form is for NEW films/tapes only, not for films that have already been listed in previous catalogs or supplements)
An electronic version of this form is available on Canyon Cinema's web page
http://home.earthlink.net/~lkless/Canyon/Canyon.html)
Please Copy this form for each new submission.

Filmmaker's Name Sara Kathryn Arledge

Date Submitted 8-31-98

Film/Video Title What is a Man? **Film/Video Date** 1958

Gauge (please circle) R-8, S-8, (16mm) 35mm, VHS NTSC

Please circle characteristics that apply.

(Color) B+W, Silent, (Optical Sound) Magnetic Sound, Separate Cassette Tape: Stereo, Mono,

FILM Rental Fee $30
(Canyon Cinema suggests $3-5/per minute and no rental less than $20--Filmmaker share is 60 % on film rentals)

Video Sale price _____
(Filmmaker share is 60 % on video sales Canyon Cinema does NOT rent videotapes)

Photos can be included with your film description. 1/3 page(5x7) $40, 1page(8x10) $100 (One photo per space)

Canyon Cinema also requests a VHS tape for preview purposes.

Included material in this package:
(To be listed in the catalog, we must receive at least one 16mm print and/or one copy of videotape for sale.)

Film/Video Description. (150 words **TYPED ONLY** or less, including a awards and screenings)

-- SEE ATTACHED --

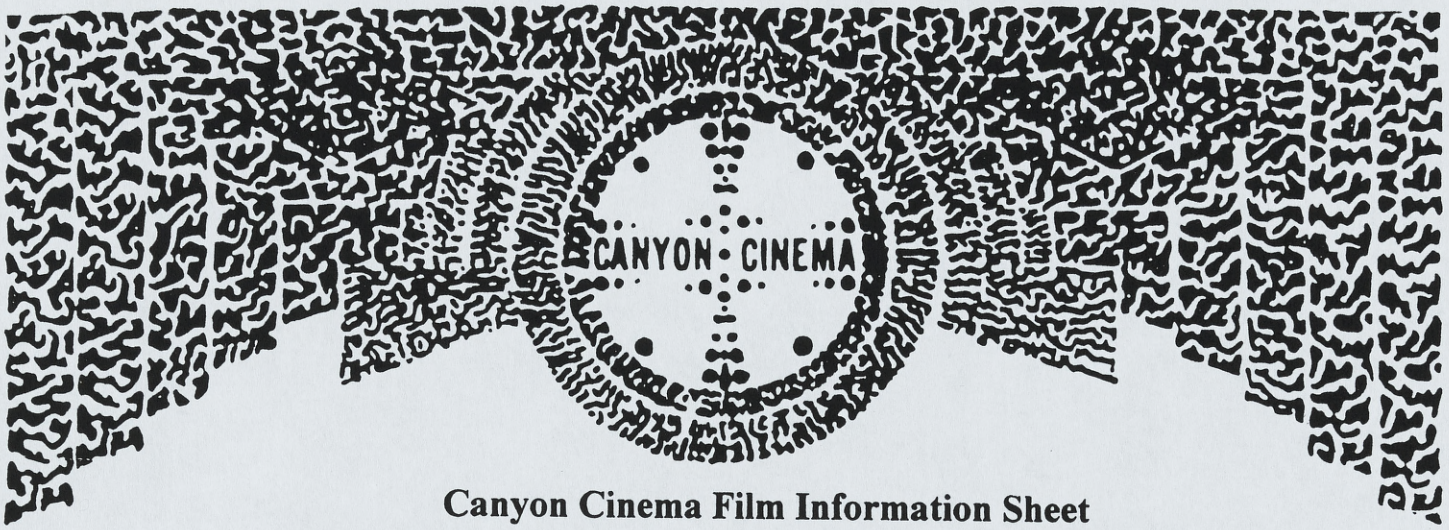
Please attach a Typed 250-300 Biography, personal /artistic statement that will be printed as an introduction to your work in Catalog #8.

2325 3RD STREET • SUITE 338 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107 • (415) 626-2255

Film Description for "What is a Man?"

"Imagery and dialogue stimulated by Finnegan's Wake. It is a satire with undertones of the cosmic spirit." -- Sara Kathryn Arledge

"What is a Man? propels Sara Kathryn Arledge from the realm of formal experimentation to social satire. Made with a remarkably sharp wit and a trenchant, mocking view of gender conventions, Arledge gives us a work far ahead of its time. Begun in 1951, Arledge received the first Creative Film Foundation award (established by Maya Deren) for script development in 1956 and completed the film in 1958. It was not until Nelly Kaplan's also neglected feature A Very Curious Girl (La Fiancée du pirate, 1969) that women's cinema would once again celebrate such a spirited, subversive artist." -- Bill Nichols, excerpted from his program notes for the film series "Maya Deren: Her Radical Aspirations and Influences in the Film Avant-garde," San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, April-May 1996



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http://home.earthlink.net/~lkless/Canyon/Canyon.html)
Please Copy this form for each new submission.

Filmmaker's Name Sara Kathryn Arledge

Date Submitted 8-31-98

Film/Video Title Interior Garden **Film/Video Date** 1978

Gauge (please circle) R-8, S-8, (16mm,) 35mm, VHS NTSC

Please circle characteristics that apply.

(Color,) B+W, Silent, (Optical Sound,) Magnetic Sound, Separate Cassette Tape: Stereo, Mono,

FILM Rental Fee $20
(Canyon Cinema suggests $3-5/per minute and no rental less than $20--Filmmaker share is 60 % on film rentals)

Video Sale price
(Filmmaker share is 60 % on video sales Canyon Cinema does NOT rent videotapes)

Photos can be included with your film description. 1/3 page(5x7) $40, 1page(8x10) $100 (One photo per space)

Canyon Cinema also requests a VHS tape for preview purposes.

Included material in this package:
(To be listed in the catalog, we must receive at least one 16mm print and/or one copy of videotape for sale.)

Film/Video Description. (150 words **TYPED ONLY** or less, including a awards and screenings)

Seventeen brilliantly colored stable images, accompanied by rain sounds. Interior Garden, along with Tender Images, are filmic combinations of abstract and semi-abstract hand-painted glass transparencies dating from 1947 to 1978.

"A magical original piece from a pioneer experimentalist. A marvelous new technique and powerful perspective into the heart of the poet."
-- Chick Strand

Please attach a Typed 250-300 Biography, personal /artistic statement that will be printed as an introduction to your work in Catalog #8.

2325 3RD STREET • SUITE 338 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107 • (415) 626-2255

SARA KATHRYN ARLEDGE

NEW RENTAL PRICES:

INTROSPECTION -- $20

Please change film completion date from 1941 to 1946

TENDER IMAGES -- $20

WHAT DO TWO RIGHTS MAKE? -- $45

QUOTATIONS FROM THE CANYON FILM CO-OPSUPPLIMENTAL FILM CATALOGUE.

INTERIOR GARDEN

"This garden will make your mind grow."----Terry Cannon

INTERIOR GARDEN II

"a magical original piece from a pioneer experimentalist, a marvelous new technique and powerful perspective into the heart of the poet."-------Chick Strand

WHAT IS A MAN ?

"Iconsider WHAT IS A MAN ? a sophisticated, humorous exploration of the experimental film medium."
------ Shirley Clarke

TENDER IMAGES

"a beautiful film."---Francis Lee

INDEX CATEGORIES FOR CATALOG #5

1 INTROSPECTION

1. abstract
8. dance

2 What Is A Man?

6. comedy and satire
15. experimental

3 TENDER IMAGESS

1 abstract
16 fantasy

4 INTERIOR GARDEN

1 abstract
16 fantasy

5 INTERIOR GARDEN II

1 abstract
16 fantasy

6 IRIDUM SINUS (Cave of the rainbows)

1 abstract
16 fantasy

7 WHAT DO TWO RIGHTS MAKE ?

6 comedy and satire
10 dramatic

Please amend descriptions of my films for CATALOG #5 1982 to read as follows:

ARLEDGE, SARA KATHRYN

INTROSPECTION

16mm. 7 min. color/sound 1941 $15.00 rental

"disembodied parts of dancers are seen moving freely in black space." " form a moving and rhythmic three dimensional design of semi-abstract shapes."..."Avant-Garde Production in America", Lewis Jacobs, in Experiment in the Film. Grey Walls Press, London 1949

"Our dance audience seemed particularly pleased with the opportunity to enjoy such a rare film." Margaret Cooper Nov. 1977 Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada.

Purpose: to demonstrate a (then) new dance medium totally different from the stage.

Audience: general public, dancers, artists.

(catalog descriptions continued)
(S.K. Arledge)

What Is A Man ?

16mm. ~~60min~~/sound/sound 1958 $20.00 rental

Imagery and dialogue stimulated by Finnegan's Wake.
It is a satire with undertones of the cosmic spirit..

..S.K.A. "I consider What Is A Man? a sophisticated humorous exploration of the Experimental film medium."

...Shirley Clark

Creative Film Foundation Award... 1956
Original score by the late jazz player, Bill Erickson.

Purpose : To explore the vision and everyday life of people.

Audience : General audience.

(catalog descriptions continued)
(S.K. Arledge)

The four following films are all filmic combimations of hand-painted colored transparencies. These light paintings date from 1947--1980. They include abstract, semi-abstract, and imaginative realism.

Purpose ; To screen original and unusual works of transparent art.

Audience : Those interested in the visual arts who enjoy activating their right brain hemispheres.

TENDER IMAGES

~~16mm. 6min. color/silent~~ 1978 $10.00 rental
Fifteen imaginative three-dimensional paintings in black, sepia, and white light.

"Beautiful and original." -- Francis Lee, pioneer film-maker. N.Y.C.

INTERIOR GARDEN

16mm. 7 min. color/sound 1978 $14.00 rental
Seventeen brilliantly colored stable images of accompanied by cricket chirps.

"This garden will make your mind grow."-- Terry Cannon, Director Pasadena Film Forum.

(catalog descriptions continued)
(S.K. Arledge)

INTERIOR GARDEN II

16mm. 7 min. color/sound 1978 $14.00 rental.

Nineteen stable images in black, sepia, and white light accompanied by rain sounds.

"A magical original piece from a pioneer experimentalist. A marvelous new technique and powerful perspective into the heart of the poet."--Chick Strand.

IRIDUM SINUS (Cave of the Rainbows)

16mm. 6min. color/sound 1980 $12.00

Fifteen new light images in colors and black, white and sepia, accompanied with bird songs.

(catalog descriptions concluded)
(S.K. Arledge)

WHAT DO TWO RIGHTS MAKE ?

16mm. 12 min. color/sound 1982 $20.00

Perhaps it is a caricature of tragedy, at anyrate a somewhat "ambiguous" treatment of three individuals at varience with each other--East of the Koan and West of the Muon. It has been described as "extreemely funny--yet disturbing."

Purpose : To provide an opportunity to enjoy your genuine aesthetic feelings.

Audience : Anyone interested in visual art (interwoven with puns).

CANYON CINEMA

CATALOG 5

2325 Third Street, Suite 338
San Francisco, California 94107
(415) 626-2255
U.S.A.

MONDAY–FRIDAY 10–5

Canyon Cinema operates as a "no-profit" cooperative distribution center for independent filmmakers. A $5 donation is requested to help defray the publishing costs of the catalog.

ARLEDGE, Sara Kathryn

INTROSPECTION (1941) **16mm 7 min. color/sound** **$15 rental**

"Disembodied parts of dancers are seen moving freely in black space . . . form a moving and rhythmic three dimensional design of semi-abstract shapes."—Lewis Jacobs, "Avant Garde Production in America," *Experiment in the Film.* Grey Walls Press, London, 1949

"Our dance audience seemed particularly pleased with the opportunity to enjoy such a rare film."—Margaret Cooper, Nov. 1977, Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada

Purpose: to demonstrate a (then) new dance medium totally different from the stage.

Audience: general public, dancers, artists.

See photo page 10.

WHAT IS A MAN? (1958) **16mm 10 min. color/sound** **$20 rental**

Imagery and dialogue stimulated by *Finnegan's Wake.* It is a satire with undertones of the cosmic spirit . . . .—SKA. "I consider WHAT IS A MAN? a sophisticated humorous exploration of the Experimental film medium."—Shirley Clark

Creative Film Foundation Award, 1956.

Original score by the late jazz player, Bill Erickson.

Purpose: To explore the vision and everyday life of people.

Audience: General Audience.

See photo page 10.

TENDER IMAGES (1978) **16mm 6 min. color/silent** **$10 rental**

Fifteen imaginative three-dimensional paintings in black, sepia, and white light.

"Beautiful and original."—Francis Lee, pioneer filmmaker, NYC

INTERIOR GARDEN (1978) **16mm 7 min. color/sound** **$14 rental**

Seventeen brilliantly colored stable images, accompanied by cricket chirps.

"This garden will make your mind grow."—Terry Cannon, Director, *Pasadena Film Forum*

See photo page 10.

INTERIOR GARDEN II (1978) **16mm 7 min. color/sound** **$14 rental**

Nineteen stable images in black, sepia, and white light accompanied by rain sounds.

"A magical original piece from a pioneer experimentalist. A marvelous new technique and powerful perspective into the heart of the poet."—Chick Strand

IRIDUM SINUS (Cave of the Rainbows) (1980) **16mm 6 min. color/sound** **$12 rental**

Fifteen new light images in colors and black, white, sepia, accompanied with bird songs.

The above four films are all filmic combinations of hand-painted colored transparencies. These light paintings date from 1947-1980. They include abstract, semi-abstract, and imaginative realism.

Purpose: To screen original and unusual works of transparent art.

Audience: Those interested in the visual arts and who enjoy activating their right brain hemispheres.

WHAT DO TWO RIGHTS MAKE? (1982) **16mm ~~12~~ 17 min. color/sound** **$20 rental**

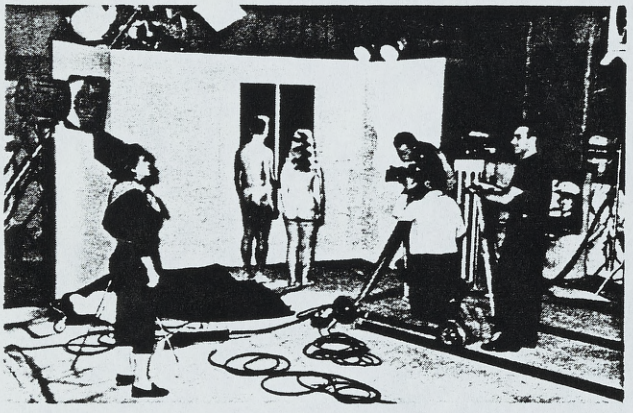
Perhaps it is a caricature of tragedy, at any rate a somewhat "ambiguous" treatment of three individuals at variance with each other—East of the Koan and West of the Muon. It has been described as "extremely funny—yet disturbing."

Purpose: To provide an opportunity to enjoy your genuine aesthetic feelings and laughter.

Audience: Anyone interested in visual art (interwoven with puns).

INTROSPECTION by Sara Arledge

INTROSPECTION by Sara Arledge



Production still from WHAT IS A MAN? by Sara Arledge

INTERIOR GARDEN by Sara Arledge